

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN.

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BY W. J. MURTAGH & CO.
George H. Weston, Editor.

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Saturday, May 24, 1862.

CLOSES FOR THE DAILY NATIONAL REPUBLICAN TO SOLDIERS.
A PAPER THAT EVERY SOLDIER SHOULD HAVE.

We have been induced to offer our daily paper to soldiers, who shall form clubs, at the following low rates:

1 copy 4 months..... \$1.50
5 copies, 4 months..... 0.80
10 copies, 4 months..... 1.00

All over ten copies, at the rate of one dollar per copy for four months.

The money must always be accompanied with the money.

Write the name distinctly, and give the company and the number of the regiment.

The paper will be mailed in one name, or the names will be written separately, if desired.

POWERS OF SLAVES IN THIS DISTRICT.

It was not the understanding of three years past the bill for the emancipation of slaves in this District, that it affected the application of the Fugitive Slave Act here, and if it had been proposed at the time of the passage of the bill referred to, it so passed it so as to include the application of the Fugitive Slave Act here.

The bill, very properly insisting upon its right to protect the military arm, all fugitives who are by law entitled to military protection, while the Commissioners yield up fugitives who are brought before them, in exchange of an express agreement between the Marshal and Gen. Wadsworth, and hence the existing affair of yesterday, as not forth by our City Report.

Gen. Wadsworth claims this right by virtue of the constitution law of August last, which gives liberty to all slaves who have been driven away from their masters, out and young men who are in rebellion against the United States, and the rights of personal liberty of free colored men, who are and may be in this District. To abrogate the Fugitive Slave Act, will deprive us men of the opportunity to enforce their title to the office of the Provost Marshal, who thereupon gives them military protection. Now, when these slaves are claimed by their masters, under the Fugitive Slave Law, Gen. Wadsworth maintains that it is his duty to see that the claimant is a loyal citizen, and not a rebel.

It seems clear to us that he has this right, and further, that above the Commissioners refuse to entertain the question of loyalty in any case, Gen. Wadsworth has the undoubted right to be satisfied upon this point, in every case, and that he has no right to yield any slave who has escaped from a rebel master, and those who do return them, give aid and comfort to the enemy, and consequently, he should order the arrest of every man, Commissioners and all, who are engaged in the business.

It has become manifest, that the Fugitive Slave Act cannot be enforced here without collisions and collisions, which will be imminent, and may even be dangerous to the public peace.

There is no constitutional provision which gives to the owners of slaves the right to pursue them, when escaping into this District. It is a right hitherto granted by Congress, but only as a matter of discretion, and it may be taken away at any time.

Why should the Maryland owners of slaves be compelled, at their own peril, to protect their slaves from escaping into this District? They have the power to keep their slaves at home, first by good treatment, and next by plantation watch and regulations. And they have the power, and they exercise it, too, to combine and maintain patrols upon all the roads leading into this District.

In most of the States the principle of legislation, in respect to slaves doing damage, is to hold their owners responsible for their escape. It is a very different spirit that the Fugitive Slave Act was conceived.

A proportion, probably large, of the persons in Maryland who are interested to maintain the right to recapture of fugitives here, are not loyal to the Government. That is likely to be even more true of the persons in Virginia who may escape this night hereafter. If the laws are not changed. Just now, Virginians are not allowed to assert this right, but nobody can tell how long this may be. We may have, at any time, such a pacification, real or pretended, of the State on the other side of the Potomac as will let in the Virginians to do what the Marylanders are now doing.

There is no escape from the certainty of injustice to free colored men, from constant brawls and fighting in our streets, from daily spectacles narrowing to the feelings of the human, and from strengthening the hands of rebels, but to the entire repudiation of all law permitting the pursuit, in this District, of alleged fugitives from slavery.

New Orleans.—The New Orleans rebel papers, of May 6, say that Confederate money continued to be current in trade, to a certain extent; also, that it is proposed to be received and paid by the banks.

They also say that General Butler had arranged with the municipal authorities to move most of his troops outside of the city limits, the authorities being responsible for the good order of the citizens.

A correspondent of the New York Post, who writes intelligently, says (April 30) that the population is "thoroughly French" in its character, and like that of Paris "for a public to-day and an empire-to-morrow." This writer predicts an early return of "Union" sentiments, under a good display of Federal bayonets, aided by the successive performances of some republican bands. "So long as we can sustain it," it matters little, for the present, whether it is brought about by bayonets, music, or logic.

New Orleans.—We learn from good authority that notwithstanding the charges of almost incredible expenditures, the amount has not exceeded a million of dollars a day from April, 1861, to the present time.

Reverence Boston.—A telegram from Chicago, May 22, says that Gen. Holloman persists in sending from his lines all the reports for the press.

We learn that there have been up to this time eleven slaves taken from Dan'l's Farm, and returned to their masters, under the Fugitive Slave law.

An Estimate.—Mrs. Johnson Davis with her children is at Raleigh. Ex-Senator Davis and his son are there also.

Gen. McClellan Five Miles from Richmond.

AN ATTACK IN INDIA.

Robots Fighting on Board Ship.

NEWS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Latest advice from the Army of the Potomac states that Gen. McClellan had crossed the Ohio, crossing at Bottom's Bridge, and that his head-quarters are near New Bridge. Preparations for an attack are being made.

The rebels made a dash at Gen. Banks' line, near Front Royal, yesterday afternoon, and an attempt was made to burn the railroad bridge recently erected by the Federal forces over the Shenandoah. The permanent bridge was not yet been constructed.

Nothing of public interest was reported from other military departments up to 10 o'clock last evening.

A steamer arrived at Cairo yesterday from the Illinois, and officer on board reported that the rebels gave striking proof of Wednesday of their presence, by firing into a steam-boat not down on a reconsolidating expedition. But it is supposed they are in small force.

The rebel fleet has disappeared. There is nothing new from Pittsburg Landing.

THE CONFEDERATE CIVIL AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES.—As was to be expected, the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, in this District, has brought about a conflict between the Civil and Military authorities. Gen. Wadsworth, very properly insisting upon his right to protect by his military arm, all fugitives who are by law entitled to military protection, while the Commissioners yield up fugitives who are brought before them, in exchange of an express agreement between the Marshal and Gen. Wadsworth, and hence the existing affair of yesterday, as not forth by our City Report.

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THE JAMES RIVER FLEET.

Special Correspondent of the Standard Examiner.

PORTLAND, May 22.

Mr. SCHAFFNER, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, from White Haven this afternoon brings a number of passengers from the headquarters of Gen. McClellan, which are in close proximity to Bottom's Bridge, over which the great body of the army has already passed. Second division, having crossed the Ohio, came at New Bridge, about seven o'clock in the morning, and with eight miles of Michael's Creek. It was removed that a proposition for an interval of ten days had been made by the rebels, but, of course, had not been carried out.

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